

DESCRIPTION

HIGH-DENSITY RECORDING MEDIUM AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING DATA PLAYBACK THEREOF

5 1. Technical Field

The present invention relates to a high-density recording medium and a method and apparatus for controlling data playback thereof, and more particularly to a high-density optical disc, such as a BD-ROM (Blu-ray Disc-ROM), and a method and apparatus
10 for controlling data playback thereof, wherein it is possible to perform a data playback operation optimal to the recording capacity of the high-density optical disc.

2. Background Art

15 The recent rapid progress in standardization of a new high-density optical disc, for example, a BD-RE (Blu-ray Disc-Rewritable), capable of recording high-quality video data and high-quality audio data for a lengthy period of time has led to anticipation that the associated products will be developed
20 and commercially available.

The BD-RE has, as shown in Fig. 1, a clamping area, transition area, burst cutting area (BCA) and lead-in area defined sequentially at the inner periphery thereof, and a data area and lead-out area defined respectively at the intermediate portion
25 and outer periphery thereof.

The lead-in area is partitioned into a first protection zone Protection zone 1, a PIC (Permanent Information & Control data) zone, a second protection zone Protection zone 2, an information 2 zone Info 2, an optimum power control (OPC) zone, etc. Whereas

the first protection zone and PIC zone are pre-recorded areas where data is pre-recorded in advance, the remaining zones of the lead-in area, the data area and the lead-out area are rewritable areas where new data is rewritten.

5 High frequency modulated (HFM) grooves are formed in the PIC zone, in which main information of the disc to be permanently preserved is stored. These HFM grooves are modulated by a bi-phase modulation method to store disc information (DI), as shown in Fig. 2.

10 That is, HFM grooves are modulated in the radial direction with a rather high bandwidth signal, to create a data channel for replicated information with sufficient capacity and data rate.

 In this modulation method, a bit with value 0 is represented by a transition at the start of the bit cell and a bit with value
15 1 is represented by a transition at the start and in the middle of the bit cell. The modulated bits are recorded on the disc by a deviation of the groove from its average centerline as indicated in Fig. 2. The length of each bit cell shall be $36T$, where T corresponds to the length of a channel bit in the rewritable data
20 areas.

 The disc information (DI) contains, as shown in Fig. 3, channel bit length information with a size of 1 byte, which is detected based on a push-pull signal. Four bits b_7 to b_4 of the channel bit length information are reserved bits having values
25 of '0000', and the remaining four bits b_3 to b_0 represent the channel bit length of main data such as an A/V stream.

 For example, the remaining four bits b_3 to b_0 represent that the channel bit length of the main data is 80nm and the recording capacity of the optical disc is 23Gbytes if they are '0000', that
30 the channel bit length is 74.5nm and the recording capacity is 25Gbytes if they are '0001', and that the channel bit length is 69nm and the recording capacity is 27Gbytes if they are '0010'.

 In this connection, an optical disc device selects a partial

response maximum likelihood (PRML) corresponding to the recording capacity of the BD-RE with reference to the channel bit length information contained in the disc information and performs a bit detection mode appropriate to the selected PRML, so as to normally
5 perform a data playback operation.

Meanwhile, the standardization of a new high-density optical disc, as well as the BD-RE, is recently under discussion among the associated companies. The new high-density optical disc may be, for example, a BD-ROM, which has, as shown in Fig.
10 4, an inner area, clamping area, transition area, information area and rim area.

The information area includes a BCA, and a PIC zone in which disc information (DI) is recorded. This DI is recorded in the PIC zone in a straight pit type that is the same recording format
15 as that of main data recorded in a data zone.

The DI recorded in the straight pit type must be subjected to a decoding process since it is detected in a radio frequency (RF) signal detection mode, not in a push-pull signal detection mode. However, there is a problem in that an error occurs in
20 the data playback operation if channel bit length information recorded in the DI is not normally detected in the early stage of the data playback operation.

3. Disclosure of Invention

25 Therefore, the present invention has been made in view of the above problem, and it is an object of the present invention to provide a high-density optical disc wherein playback control information recorded on the optical disc, such as channel bit length information, can be detected without a separate decoding
30 operation.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for detecting playback control information additionally recorded in a specific area of a high-density optical disc, such

as channel bit length information, without a separate decoding operation and performing a data playback operation on the basis of the detected playback control information.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide
5 a method and apparatus for selecting a bit detection mode most appropriate to a high-density optical disc and performing a data playback operation in the selected bit detection mode.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, the above and other objects can be accomplished by the provision of
10 a high-density recording medium containing: a lead-in zone in which recording medium information is recorded in a straight pit type; and a specific area, prior to or within the lead-in zone, in which playback control information regarding a recording capacity of the high-density recording medium is recorded in a
15 wobble type.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for controlling data playback of a high-density recording medium, comprising the steps of: a) detecting playback control information regarding a recording
20 capacity of the high-density recording medium from a specific area using a push-pull signal detection mode; and b) performing a data playback operation with reference to the detected playback control information.

In accordance with a further aspect of the present
25 invention, there is provided a method for controlling data playback of a high-density recording medium, comprising the steps of: a) sequentially performing a plurality of predetermined bit detection modes with regard to the recording medium to calculate bit error rates in the bit detection modes, respectively; and b)
30 selecting one of the bit detection modes corresponding to a smallest one of the calculated bit error rates and performing a data playback operation in the selected bit detection mode.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the present

invention, there is provided an apparatus for controlling data playback of a high-density recording medium, comprising: a detection unit for performing one of a plurality of predetermined bit detection modes with regard to the high-density recording medium; a decoding unit for calculating and outputting a bit error rate from data bits detected by the detection unit; and a control unit for controlling the bit detection mode of the detection unit and selecting one of the bit detection modes corresponding to a smallest bit error rate on the basis of the calculated bit error rate.

4. Brief Description of Drawings

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention, illustrate the preferred embodiments of the invention, and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the present invention.

Fig. 1 is a view showing the structure of a BD-RE;

Fig. 2 is a view showing HFM grooves formed in a PIC zone of the BD-RE;

Fig. 3 is a view illustrating channel bit length information contained in disc information (DI) of the BD-RE;

Fig. 4 is a table showing the structure of a BD-ROM to which the present invention is applied;

Figs. 5 and 6 are views showing recorded states of channel bit length information in a BCA according to the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a view schematically showing the configuration of an optical disc device to which the present invention is applied; and

Fig. 8 is a block diagram conceptually showing a part of the configuration of the optical disc device to which the present invention is applied.

Features, elements, and aspects of the invention that are

referenced by the same numerals in different figures represent the same, equivalent, or similar features, elements, or aspects in accordance with one or more embodiments.

5 5. Modes for Carrying out the Invention

Now, preferred embodiments of a high-density recording medium and a method and apparatus for controlling data playback thereof according to the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the annexed drawings.

10 A high-density optical disc, for example, a BD-ROM, to which the present invention is applied has an information area including a BCA, PIC zone, data zone, etc., as stated previously with reference to Fig. 4. Disc information (DI) is recorded in the PIC zone in a straight pit type, and main data, such as an A/V
15 stream, is recorded in the data zone in the straight pit type. The DI, recorded in the straight pit type, is detected in an RF signal detection mode, as shown in Fig. 5.

In one embodiment of the present invention, playback control information, such as channel bit length information set
20 to a different value depending on the recording capacity of the optical disc, is additionally recorded in a specific area prior to the PIC zone, for example, the BCA, in a wobble type. Alternatively, the channel bit length information may be recorded in the PIC zone in the wobble type. In either case,
25 the channel bit length information, recorded in the wobble type, can be detected in a push-pull signal detection mode without a separate decoding process.

The channel bit length information can be recorded, as shown in Fig. 6, with a size of at least 2 bits of the first byte
30 of each data unit recorded in the BCA, as will hereinafter be described in detail.

The BCA code is based on a structure of maximum 4 data units as shown in Fig. 6. Each data unit contains 16 information bytes

$I(m,n)$ and 16 parity bytes $C(m,n)$. Furthermore, the code structure contains Sync bytes $SB(a,b)$ and a BCA preamble.

In Fig. 6, the first byte $I(0,n)$ of each data unit indicates channel bit length information. For example, the minimum channel
5 bit length is 80nm corresponding to a recording capacity of 23Gbytes if bits 'b5 and b4' of the first byte of each data unit are recorded as '00', 75.4nm corresponding to 25Gbytes if they are recorded as '01', and 69nm corresponding to 27Gbytes if they are recorded as '10'.

10 Fig. 7 schematically shows the configuration of an optical disc device to which the present invention is applied. As shown in this drawing, the optical disc device comprises an optical pickup 11, a video disc play (VDP) system 12, a digital/analog (D/A) converter 13 and so forth. If a BD-ROM 10 is loaded therein,
15 then the optical disc device detects, during initial servo operation, channel bit length information recorded in the BCA of the BD-ROM 10 in the wobble type using the push-pull signal detection mode without a separate decoding process.

Where the value of the channel bit length information is
20 'b5b4=00', the optical disc device determines that the recording capacity of the optical disc is 23Gbytes and the minimum channel bit length of recorded data is 80nm, selects a partial response maximum likelihood (PRML) corresponding to the determination results, and performs a bit detection mode appropriate to the
25 selected PRML. Where the value of the channel bit length information is 'b5b4=01', the optical disc device determines that the recording capacity of the optical disc is 25Gbytes and the minimum channel bit length of recorded data is 74.5nm, and performs a bit detection mode corresponding to the determination
30 results. Where the value of the channel bit length information is 'b5b4=10', the optical disc device determines that the recording capacity of the optical disc is 27Gbytes and the minimum channel bit length of recorded data is 69nm, and performs

a bit detection mode corresponding to the determination results. As a result, the optical disc device can accurately reproduce DI and main data recorded in the straight pit type.

In another embodiment of the present invention, in the case
5 where there is no channel bit length information of the wobble type additionally recorded in the BCA of the BD-ROM 10, the VDP system 12 of the optical disc device checks the recording capacity of the loaded optical disc and selects a bit detection mode most appropriate thereto in order to accurately reproduce DI recorded
10 on the optical disc, more particularly DI recorded in the PIC zone of the disc in the straight pit type, and main data recorded in the data zone of the disc, as will hereinafter be described in detail.

The VDP system 12 includes, as shown in Fig. 8, a detector
15 part including a plurality of, for example, first to third equalizers 121, 122 and 123, a first switch 120 for selecting one of the first to third equalizers 121, 122 and 123 and applying an RF input signal to the selected equalizer, a phase locked loop (PLL) circuit 124, a plurality of, for example, first to third
20 PRML detectors 126, 127 and 128, a second switch 125 for selecting one of the first to third PRML detectors 126, 127 and 128 and applying an output signal from the PLL circuit 124 to the selected PRML detector, and an equalizer/PRML selector 132 for controlling the first and second switches 120 and 125. The VDP system 12
25 further includes a decoder part including a demodulator 129 for demodulating modulated data of a certain format, an error correcting unit 130 for performing error correction for the demodulated data, and a bit error rate (BER) calculator 131 for calculating a BER of the demodulated data.

30 Although the equalizer/PRML selector 132 has been disclosed to be included in the detector part in the present embodiment, it may be included in the decoder part, not in the detector part, or separately configured as a separate part (not shown).

The PRML (Partial Response and Maximum Likelihood) is a process to detect binary data from Read channel 1 signal (RF signal). It typically consists of an equalizer and a Viterbi decoder.

5 The equalizer controls inter-symbol interference of Read channel 1 signal (RF signal) and fit Read channel 1 signal to a partial response channel. The partial response channel means that the impulse response appears at plural sample points and it is linear time invariant.

10 The Viterbi decoder detects binary data using a known correlation of Read channel 1 signal.

 The equalizer/PRML selector 132, in the early stage of the data playback operation, controls the first switch 120 and the second switch 125 such that a first bit detection mode
15 appropriate to an optical disc of 23Gbytes recording capacity is performed. In the first bit detection mode, an RF signal read from the BD-ROM 10 is passed along a first path of the first equalizer 121, PLL 124 and first PRML detector 126.

 The BER calculator 131 checks bit data demodulated and
20 error-corrected by the demodulator 129 and error correcting unit 130 to calculate a first BER (BER #1) that is the ratio between normal bit data and erroneous bit data, and then outputs the calculated first BER to the equalizer/PRML selector 132.

 The above operation is similarly performed sequentially
25 with regard to second and third paths so that second and third BERs (BER #2 and BER #3) are calculated and outputted to the equalizer/PRML selector 132.

 Thereafter, the equalizer/PRML selector 132 selects a path where the smallest amount of bit error occurs, namely, the most
30 appropriate equalizer and PRML detector, on the basis of BER #1, BER #2 and BER #3 sequentially calculated through the above process, and controls the first and second switches according

to the selected path. Therefore, a bit detection mode optimal to the recording capacity of the optical disc loaded in the device is performed and the data playback operation is thus normally performed.

5 Although the playback control method has been disclosed in association with a read-only optical disc, for example, a BD-ROM, for illustrative purposes, this invention is also applicable to a writable medium, such as a BD-RE or WO, to control a data recording operation.

10 As apparent from the above description, the present invention provides a high-density recording medium and a method and apparatus for controlling data playback thereof, wherein it is possible to perform a data playback operation optimal to the recording capacity of a BD-ROM (Blu-ray Disc-ROM) even through
15 disc information (DI) is recorded in a PIC (Permanent Information & Control data) zone of the BD-ROM in a recording format necessitating a decoding process and the recording capacity is any of different values such as 23Gbytes, 25Gbytes, 27Gbytes, etc.

20 Although the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been disclosed for illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications, additions and substitutions are possible, without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention as disclosed in the
25 accompanying claims.